

REMARKS

The last Office Action of March 19, 2008 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. No amendment to the claims and specification has been made.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by German Pat. No. DE 44 30 430 (hereinafter "DE '430").

Claims 3, 4, 13, 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE '430 in view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,578,468 to Pearlstein et al.

Claims 7, 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE '430 in view of published U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 2004/0232108 to Giori.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of independent claims 1 and 10 for the following reasons:

The present invention, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 10 relates to the field of intaglio printing, used in particular for printing bank notes. Intaglio printing involves the application of substantial pressure forces, while requiring a precision in the range of 10 μm . At the time of the invention, the base body of a printing plate was typically made of nickel, which require tedious retouching and postprocessing steps, such as grinding, polishing, or the like.

The DE '430 reference is directed to a method of making engraved rollers or plates and describes in col. 1, line 5 the application of these rollers or plates for flexographic printing, rotogravure, imprinting, and coating. Col. 2, lines 50 to 55 describes the provision of metals of slight hardness for the gravure layer to allow easy engraving. To increase wear-resistance and corrosion resistance, the gravure layer is coated with a further layer having a Vickers hardness of at least 850 HV. While acknowledging that the disclosed hardness relates to the further layer and not to the base body, the Examiner submitted that this is immaterial. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As disclosed in DE '430 in col. 2, line 57, the accuracy achieved is indicated with 40000 holes/cm². In other words, the resolution is 200 holes/cm, i.e. 0.05 mm. Such a resolution, normal for the typical rotogravure, is inadequate for intaglio printing which requires accuracy in the range of about 0.01 mm. Thus, the method according to the DE '430 fails to attain the needed accuracy for intaglio printing. In addition, a printing plate made in accordance with the DE '430 would quickly deform when exposed to the high loads in intaglio printing and thus have only a short service life.

In order to substantiate the difference between the subject matter according to the present invention and the disclosure in DE '430, applicant submits a declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.132 by the co-inventor, Harald Deinhammer.

For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that DE '430 neither teaches nor suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 10.

As for the rejection of the dependent claims, these claims depend on claims 1 and 10, respectively, share their presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should also be allowed.

Applicant has also carefully scrutinized the further cited prior art and finds it without any relevance to the claims on file. It is thus felt that no specific discussion thereof is necessary.

In view of the above presented remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels

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that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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